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SERIES: IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

Resident share experiences with COVID-19 virus



COURTESY PHOTO
(Left to right) Belchertown residents Edward Collette, Elaina Collette, Connor Collette and Catherine Collette have been dealing with the effects of COVID-19 on Catherine Collette since March 2020.

BY MELINA BOURDEAU

Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN — As one of over 630 people to have been diagnosed with COVID-19, Belchertown resident Catherine Collette can remember exactly how she got the virus which still affects her a year later.

"It was a Thursday, two weeks after the shut down," she said. "My symptoms began on March 26."

The moment when she got the virus was during an "emergency trip to CVS."

"I went on a trip for diapers," she said. "It was the only place I had been since the schools shut down, but I ran out of diapers...I was

See COVID, page 7 •

TOWN HALL

Cutchins Program discusses proposed Belchertown location

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN — The Cutchins Program for Children and Families recently hosted a virtual community meeting to discuss its proposed facility at 52 Old Bay Rd and Plaza Ave in Belchertown.

The meeting was hosted and moderated by attorney Thomas Reidy of Bacon Wilson, and presentations were made on the program and the proposed site plan. There was also an opportunity for members of the community to ask questions and air concerns.

Cutchins specializes in treating trauma in children, sensory processing disorders, co-occurring emotional and autism spectrum disorders, according to the organization's website. Cutchins has been in operation for more than 40 years, said Tina Champagne, Chief Executive Officer at Cutchins, and runs many different programs under

its umbrella. The organization has a campus in Northampton, a residential program serving children and adolescents ages eight to 18.

The specific program that has been proposed at the Belchertown location is the Three Rivers Program, which is a "Clinically Intensive Residential Treatment Program" serving children ages six through 12, who will reside in the new proposed home. It is the "most intensive residential treatment setting provided by Massachusetts for children under 13 years of age," according to Cutchins.

The Three Rivers Program, which is currently based in Springfield, originated 25 years ago and is one of the newer residential programs. Champagne said the public meeting was an opportunity to clarify a few details as there had been "some

See CUTCHINS page 5 •

TOWN HALL

Selectboard, Fin Com begin budget process

BY MELINA BOURDEAU

Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN — Although spring may seem far away, the Selectboard and Finance Committee have begun the budget process which will be voted on at town meeting.

Similar to previous years, the boards will be hearing from department heads in town from the library to the schools about its proposed budgets.

Finance Committee Chair Ron Aponte outlined the process at the joint meeting on Feb. 2.

"Similar to the past several years, we're going to start off with a level services budget. The requests have gone out to department heads and we have received requests," he said. "We want to set a revenue projection that we're all comfortable with, then what we'll hear from department heads and start to gather expense requests. (We'll) see if the bottom lines match, generally it doesn't and that's where the fun begins.

See BUDGET, page 3 •

TOWN HALL

Disc golf course draws crowd

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN — The current Quabbin Valley Disc Golf project was the subject of a two-hour long Recreation Department meeting last week with over 55 people in attendance.

To begin the meeting, members of the Recreation Commission as well as the disc golf course's designer, Brian Giggy, presented on the project.

Recreation Commission Chair Nancy Kwiatkowski said the project has been in the works for years, and only required a vote for an appropriate from the town at the Annual Town Meeting. A warrant article at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting appropriated \$14,000 from Community Preservation funding for the

See GOLF, page 9 •

Covert creature



PHOTO BY MELINA BOURDEAU
This red-tailed hawk was spotted in the Quabbin by the tower earlier this month.



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■ COMMUNITY



Back in 2008, Harvard grads Pete Buttigieg and Eric Lesser pose for a photo outside then candidate Barack Obama's campaign plane.

COURTESY PHOTO

Stars could be aligning for East-West rail project

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
mharrison@turley.com

EAST LONGMEADOW — One day, two college buddies caught up while wrangling luggage from a plane in Gary, Indiana. Chances are, neither thought the vicissitudes of life would lead one of them to a place on the world's stage before his 40th birthday.

The plane they unloaded carried the belongings of then-presidential candidate and first-term U.S. Senator Barack Obama and his campaign staff. Eric Lesser, a campaign aide who went on to serve in the White House as special assistant to David Axelrod, Obama's chief advisor, had let his good friend "Pete," a native of South Bend, Indiana, know he would be in the Hoosier state and maybe they could spend some time together.

Perhaps the two former Harvard students grabbed dinner or a beer later. Friends for life at that point, they still get together when they can. Or, Pete being Pete, he may have used all the free time he had that day helping his old pal unload that plane. Even if that bit of trivia is confined to the dustbin of history, it's wholly inconsequential compared to how their lives would continue to intersect.

Lesser, a state senator representing the 1st Hampden and Hampshire District — including Ludlow, Wilbraham, Hampden, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Granby, Belchertown, and parts of Chicopee and Springfield — is no stranger to Pete's new boss, President Joe Biden.

Pete — Pete Buttigieg, a.k.a. Mayor Pete — started to make his name as the second youngest mayor in South Bend history at age 29 in 2012, and later as a rival to Biden in the 2020 primaries. He now serves in Biden's cabinet as Secretary of Transportation.

For Lesser, who's passionate about the proposed East-West passenger rail line from Boston to Pittsfield with depots in Springfield and Palmer, it might not hurt to

have friends in high places.

How they met? Taking a 'brain break' They spent only one year as schoolmates, though Lesser and Buttigieg probably would have become friends regardless of how they met. Both have an enduring intellectual curiosity, are service-minded, and can talk policy like others talk sports. Still, when they met, one was getting his feet wet in Cambridge while the other was preparing for post-grad life.

"I was a freshman and he was a senior at the time," Lesser said. "I would describe him as a bit of a big man on campus. He was president of the Institute of Politics, which was kind of the youth political center at Harvard. But he didn't carry himself that way. He is a pretty understated guy. He was sort of universally liked, well known, but not in a sort of outlandish or braggadocio way."

In other words, kind of cool?

"It was very much a kind of quiet charisma," Lesser said.

When they met, Lesser found out the accomplished senior was humble enough to offer friendship to the newbies.

"And he had a reputation as being a really sincere and really brilliant person and very committed to his hometown even then," Lesser said. "I remember actually the first time we met, we met up for something that was called 'brain break,' when they would put out snacks in the dining hall in the middle of the night, like around midnight. People would take breaks from studying or from the library and they would go to the dining hall to get these snacks. And I remember meeting up with him and I was just a kid from Longmeadow who found myself at Harvard, and we met up at the brain break and we chatted. It was clear pretty quickly that he was a really unique talent and a unique person."

One of the first things they bonded over

Belchertown Community Television schedule

BELCHERTOWN — This is the upcoming schedule for Thursday, Feb. 18 to Wednesday, Feb. 24. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this schedule is subject to change.

Friday, Feb. 19

- 8 a.m. — Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. — COVID Update — Feb. 4
- 9:30 a.m. — COVID — Her Story
- 7 p.m. — Conversation with Pakman
- 8 p.m. — COVID Update — Feb. 4
- 8:30 p.m. — COVID — Her Story

Saturday, Feb. 20

- 8 a.m. — Curious Giraffe
- 9 a.m. — COVID Update — Feb. 4
- 9:30 a.m. — COVID — Her Story

Sunday, Feb. 21

- 4:30 p.m. — St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
- 6 p.m. — Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m. — Hope United Methodist Church
- 8:30 p.m. — COVID — Her Story

Monday, Feb. 22

- 8 a.m. — Conversation with Pakman
- 5:30 p.m. — Conversation with Pakman
- 6:30 p.m. — Selectboard — Channel 191
- 7 p.m. — Conservation Commission — Channel 192

Tuesday, Feb. 23

- 8 a.m. — Curious Giraffe
- 7 p.m. — Planning Board — Channel 191

Tuesday, Feb. 16

- 8 a.m. — Curious Giraffe
- 6:30 p.m. — FinCom/Selectboard — Channel 191

Wednesday, Feb. 24

- 8 a.m. — Conversation with Pakman
- 1 p.m. — Meditation with Lori — Sensory Meditation
- 7 p.m. — Conversation with Pakman

The BCTV Studio is located at 68 State St., Belchertown. BCTV channels are 191, 192 and 193. The BCTV schedule is available at www.Belchertown.org. On the main title page select "residents," click on Belchertown Community Television. Selected BCTV shows are also available on Vimeo. Go to www.Belchertown.org, go to quick links and click on "watch meetings and events online." The schedule is subject to change.

The BCTV weather information system is broadcast on TV channel 193 and displays the current weather conditions at the BCTV station as well as, the current regional radar. This service operates 24 hours a day with audio provided by the National Weather Service from Albany New York, with forecasts, storm and emergency warnings for the Pioneer Valley.

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■ COMMUNITY

Chestnut Hill pool repair work begins

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – The Chestnut Hill pool repairs began this week, according to Recreation Department Director Kyle Thibeault.

Beginning on Monday, Feb. 15, the pool deck repairs began, which will continue through the February vacation week where “the bulk of the work will be done,” according to Thibeault. He informed the Recreation Department at its most recent meeting on Thursday, Feb. 11.

“If there is anything outstanding, they would come back the following Wednesday to finish taking up any materials or equipment that would need to be removed at that point,” he said.

During the shutdown time, the heat exchanger in the pool will also be replaced.

Thibeault said the anticipated end date of the project is April 1.

“We’re hoping it may be before that, but right now, April 1 is the day because after they pour the concrete it has to cure for 28 days, then they want to put a sealer on the concrete,” said Thibeault. “(This is) to try to prevent what happened in the pit area of the pool deck from happening again. Once they put it on it could take three to five days to fully cure as well.”

He said he hoped to have everything running smoothly to be able to get the programs up and running.

The selectboard unanimously agreed to



The repairs on the Chestnut Hill pool deck began this week.

ARCHIVE PHOTO

grant the contract to Edward Paige Corp. in a meeting last fall.

At the time, Town Administrator Gary Brougham updated the selectboard about the most recent development of the pool deck project.

“We have a responsible bid with the second round of bids, the lowest was Edward Paige Corp. I have a contract prepared by Tighe and Bond for \$56,900 funds are available through different pots of money,” Brougham said.

The contracted cost was within the estimate the town projected.

There was \$20,000 appropriated from the 2021 fiscal year budget, \$23,262.50 from the school department and \$23,262.50 from the recreation department, which covers the cost of the deck repair in addition to \$9,625 to Tighe and

Bond, according to Brougham.

He estimated the project would take about five days to complete.

“It’s very sensitive with the structural members that need to be worked around and reinstalled once the bad concrete is removed we need to rebuild the structural members and reinforcing bars within the poured concrete,” Brougham said.

Also in need of replacement is the heat exchanger in the pool.

Brougham said the heat exchanger is the original on the pool, which would need be replaced as well.

“It’s 30-something years old, it’s failing and we’re limping along at near-minimum temperature,” he said.

He said the pool would need to shut down if the temperature dropped even a couple of degrees lower.

Selectboard announces board vacancies

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Selectboard is looking for citizens interested in sharing their expertise by serving on a Town Board/Committee. If you have time and are interested in getting involved in your Town’s activities, please submit a letter of interest to: Select Board, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007 or by email to selectmen@belchertown.org (unless otherwise indicated below). The town wishes to fill the following vacancies:

Cultural Council: The town wishes to fill a vacancy on the cultural council. The council promotes an appreciation of the arts and culture by participating in the development and administration of funds for local cultural activities. The deadline has been extended to 12 p.m. on Friday, March 12.

Historic District By-Law Commission: The town wishes to fill an associate member seat (non-voting) and an at-large (full member) seat on the Historic District By-Law Commission. The commission has regulatory control over new construction, reconstruction, alterations, movements and demolition of all exterior architectural features of buildings and structures within the Historic District which are visible from any public street, public way or public park. The deadline has been extended to 12 p.m. on Friday, March 21.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Associate Member: The ZBA is responsible for hearing and deciding on applications for special permits, variances and appeals from decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector. The deadline has been extended to 12 p.m. on March 12.

BUDGET • from page 1

we could see \$11,000 as something we may need to move around money for. Everything else is in pretty decent shape as far as where we should be as far as expenditures versus budgets.”

Projecting forward, the group determined it was “where it normally is at this point in the year,” according to Finance Committee member Lynne Raymer.

“We’re right where we normally are, we have a \$1 million deficit that we have

to continue to worry about regardless of whether we’re COVID-19 or another part of the year,” she said.

Each department head was invited to come before the bodies to discuss its budget.

“I have always been willing to allow any department head who wants to come before us, come before us,” Aponte said. “I’m more than willing to listen to them.”

The Finance Committee and Selectboard began hosting joint meetings starting on Feb. 9, Feb. 16 and 17.

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A job description for this position and an employment application are available by calling the Selectmen's Office (413-323-0403) during regular business hours. The deadline to apply is 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

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■ COMMUNITY

Quabbin Photo Group hosts Dr. Kah-Wai Lin

BELCHERTOWN – In the seminar, the Art of Landscape Photography on Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Kah-Wai Lin will tell you the pro tips in seeing the unseen and crafting better images in landscape photography: how to use the lights to create visual emotion; how to use long exposure to create visual dynamism; how to use field of vision to create visual perspective; and how to use composition to create visual continuity and story.

Meeting is currently being held via Zoom. To join the meeting contact Gail Platz at gspqpg@gmail.com.

Lin is a professional landscape photographer based in New Jersey. He is the Goodwill Ambassador and former Chapter, Clubs and Councils Vice President of Photographic Society of America (PSA). Dr. Lin is the director of Global Elite Photographer, ambassador & education advisor of NiSi, ambassador & global marketing advisor of Fotopro, ambassador & global marketing advisor of Feiyu, pro team of Spiffy Gear, and ambassador & international liaison officer of Studio of Masters. He also operates a camera store, Stetinden Photo, in New



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Kah-Wai Lin will present photography tips at the upcoming Quabbin Photo Group meeting.

Jersey. Over the past few years, he has been presenting over 200 seminars worldwide, and has received over 200 awards in photographic con-

tests. Notably, he is the recipient of Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from US Member of Congress.

Businesses eligible for grant

BELCHERTOWN – The Quaboag Valley CDC is now accepting application for Microenterprise Assistance grants for businesses adversely impacted by COVID-19, according to a press release from Belchertown Town Planner Doug Albertson.

"Belchertown is one of the communities to benefit from this COVID-related federal grant," he wrote in an email. "The program is now running and being administered by the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation. It is for small businesses of five or fewer employees and has income restrictions."

See GRANT, page 5 •

Visual artists invited to apply for valley creation stations project

SPRINGFIELD – Pioneer Valley visual artists are called to apply for Valley Creation Stations, a project that will showcase local artists and their artwork through photographs on ValleyBike Share kiosks. ValleyBike Share, Rise Dispensary, and Commonwealth Murals have teamed up on Valley Creation Stations to celebrate all Pioneer Valley visual artists and their artwork.

During April and May, about 40 ValleyBike kiosks will be converted to display photographs of local artists with their art. Each photograph will be displayed on two ValleyBike kiosks, in two different communities. Both the artist and their work will be represented in each photo, and each artist's name, discipline, and website or social media feed will be included

in the display.

Short videos of each artist talking about their work will also be filmed at the photoshoot and displayed on a website and YouTube page associated with this project.

ValleyBike Share has nine kiosks located in Amherst, including on the UMass campus; four kiosks in Easthampton; six kiosks in Holyoke; eight kiosks in Northampton; two kiosks in South Hadley; and seven kiosks located in Springfield.

Commonwealth Murals, the organization that brought the Fresh Paint Springfield mural festival to downtown Springfield, is managing the Valley Creation Stations proj-

See ARTISTS, page 5 •

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I GRANBY

Sending love...ready to mail!

GRANBY – Dina and Mia Smith kept the Granby Library Valentine Making tradition going this year, with a take and make Valentine Kit. The mom and daughter pair have been attending the library's Valentine Making program for years, but this year was different.

While the library could not do any in-person Valentine making, the library provided a wide variety of papers, doilies, ribbons for families to make at home.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Far right, Mia and Dina Smith recently made valentines through the Granby Public Library take and make kit. Photo right, although the mother and daughter couldn't go to the Granby Public Library to make valentines, they were able to make them from home.

**ARTISTS** • from page 4

ect. The photographs will be displayed by ValleyBike Share, the Pioneer Valley's all-electric assist bike share that has station kiosks across the Valley. The project is sponsored by Amherst's Rise Cannabis Dispensary, whose mission is to promote well-being through art, plant medicine, and nature.

Visual artists from all disciplines who reside in the Pioneer Valley are encouraged to apply. Twenty artists will be selected to participate in a photo shoot in early March. A professional photographer will photograph each person with an example of their art. For information about how to apply for this opportunity, visit <https://www.commonwealthmurals.org/artistcall>. Applications are due on Feb. 22 and selections will be announced on

March 1. All Massachusetts COVID-19 Safety Guidelines will be followed during the photoshoot.

To be selected, artists must create original works of art that can be photographed at a 45-minute photoshoot during the week of March 8 to 14. The artwork must be able to be brought to the photoshoot location and positioned so that it can be photographed with the artist.

The project will expose hundreds of people to the artists' work as they bike, walk and drive past ValleyBike kiosks. The images and videos of participating artists, with links to their website/social media feeds, will also be included on a project landing page hosted by Common Wealth Murals and promoted by all three organizations.

The photographs will be displayed from April 1 to May 31 on ValleyBike Kiosks.

GRANT • from page 4

Businesses may be eligible for up to \$10,000 in grant funding. There are income eligibility requirements.

Funding for the program comes from a grant to the town of Palmer from the US Department of Housing and Urban

Development and the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development.

Eligible businesses in Belchertown, Hampden, Hardwick, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer and Ware are able to apply.

For more information contact the Quaboag Valley CDC at 413-967-3001.

CUTCHINS • from page 1

confusion" around which of the programs would be housed in Belchertown.

"When we first moved in, it suited our needs," Champagne said of the program location in Springfield. "The neighborhood has changed significantly over the years; the crime rate has gone up significantly."

Due to crime rate increase, Champagne said the current location is "no longer a safe place" from which to operate. When the organization found the Belchertown location, she said they fell in love immediately with the "overall sense of calm."

"It's a beautiful location and beautiful neighborhood," she said. "We do our best to be really good neighbors and...to also give back to the communities."

The children will always be supervised, Champagne said. A school will also be operated within the program; the plan is to operate the classrooms out of the building that already exists on the property. The children will be living in a newly constructed residence on the same property.

Champagne said that previously, abutting residents had aired concerns ranging from property values to care of

property and more.

"I can assure you we have every intention to keep the property looking pristine. We're investing a great deal into this property to make sure that anything built has the same look and style and feel," Champagne said, adding that concerns originally arose over the new building because it was improperly listed as a dormitory.

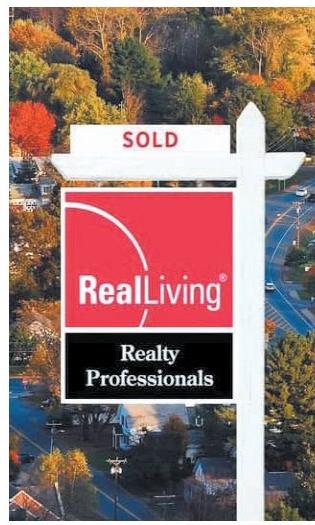
Michael Liu with the Northampton-based Berkshire Design Group said the existing house will be converted to the school portion and the proposed children's home would be a one-story building with two wings with an "extra wide green buffer to the streets."

"We want [the children] to have a really safe and environmentally rich place to be able to engage in a lot of the things that all children do," Champagne said. "We believe strongly that children are our future and we believe this is really what they need and deserve."

While many members of the community viewed the virtual meeting, none had questions or comments to share during the meeting. One member of the community said they would "take some time to digest" the information and present any further questions to the Planning Board.



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OPINION**EDITORIAL**

Combatting cabin fever inside and out

Winters in New England can seem very long in the best of years, but this past fall and now as we find ourselves deep into winter this February, it may seem even longer than normal as COVID-19 remains with us after almost a year.

Punxsutawney Phil, the ever-popular, Pennsylvania groundhog removed from his burrow each year to prognosticate about how many more weeks of winter we'll see before spring makes its anxiously-awaited appearance, made his annual visit above ground on Feb. 2. Unfortunately, he saw his shadow and determined there will be six weeks more of winter.

Luckily, Massachusetts' "famous" groundhog, Ms. G, the official state groundhog of our state also made her annual appearance on Feb. 2. She did not see her shadow and so predicted an early spring. How early we don't yet know. She lives at the Massachusetts Audubon education center, Drumlin Farm, in Lincoln.

It remains to be seen if either forecast is accurate. In the Holyoke area, at least, skunks are already on the move again, a sure sign spring is headed our way. Of course the Paper City is usually a little warmer than many other Western Mass locations, so who knows?

Whether Phil's or Mrs. G's forecasting proves true, we are all getting at least a touch of cabin fever, and there's certainly stronger feelings of restlessness and boredom running through us all and our friends and family.

So what to do? Considering our very recent snow, one can choose to educate oneself and go hiking, but if you're new to the activity make sure you learn about the right clothing to wear based on temperatures and planned activities.

If you haven't investigated doing so before cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are possible now that we have plenty of the white stuff.

And if you've never tried ice fishing and you're willing to take a ride, you can head to Russell, where the Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures' ice fishing staff, with Craig Mannix, will be on hand to help you. With over 30 years of ice fishing experience, Mannix and his team will be available to show even the most novice fisherman how to catch the big ones under the ice. For those folks without the proper ice fishing equipment, plenty of "pop-ups" and other tools necessary to successfully find fish will be available for use out on the frozen lake.

While at Woronoco Heights on Feb. 20, it's also possible to try blacksmithing with the help of a Forged in Fire contestant as well as snowshoeing and/or mountain biking, although COVID-19 safety restrictions require all to bring their own bike helmets. There will also be orienteering, escape challenges and scavenger hunt bingo as well as other activities. If Mother Nature cooperates with the right weather, there may be trips out to the Top O' The Hill Maple "sugar shack" where visitors are rewarded for their efforts with samples of their sweet, freshly boiled, maple syrup.

The events go on from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and it's \$10 a piece for everyone regardless of age.

But if the cold weather, snow and ice isn't your or your family's thing, there are plenty of indoor activities on Zoom or other video conferencing applications.

Area groups and libraries have worked hard to keep us all entertained – and with the ubiquity of Zoom, it's possible to enjoy programs you might not have considered participating in before from the comfort of your own living room.

Dreaming of gardening in the spring? The East Quabbin Land Trust, will host a book discussion on Feb. 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., on "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conversation That Starts in Your Yard," by Douglas Tallamy, a professor of entomology at the University of Delaware. He is also the author of "Bringing Nature Home." He will discuss how homeowners can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats.

It's free and people should email Jess Cusworth at the trust at Jcusworth@eqlt.org if they are interested, and she will send you the Zoom link.

The trust, the Trustees of the Reservation and Massachusetts Audubon all have outdoor and indoor activities, and libraries across the state have all kinds of online programs to enjoy, so take a walk through the World Wide Web and see what you can find to distract yourself until spring.

**GUEST COLUMN**

Tackling milk jug seed sowing, part 1

Barbara, who gardens in Wilbraham, wrote to me recently, complimenting the column (thank you!) and asking if I had any opinion of "winter sowing" seeds in re-used gallon jugs. This technique is all the rage right now on social media and in gardening blogs, and while I had read about it many years ago and again recently, I have never tried it myself. Perhaps some research into the topic would prove beneficial for me as well as my readers!

The basic premise of winter sowing is to plant your seeds in mini-greenhouses (the gallon jugs), place the jugs outside and simply let nature take over. The advantage being that no heat mats or lights are needed. No window sills full of seedlings, either. While I don't think it is as simple as it sounds, I do think trying it would be a fun experiment. Read on this week and next to consider some of the pros and possible cons of this seed starting technique.

Years ago I read a blog where a master gardener was encouraging folks to start native perennials in milk jugs outside; he called it "winter sowing." The seeds of many of these plants require a period of cold and moist stratification to break seed dormancy. In simple terms, they need to go through winter in order to sprout. Think of it as nature's safety mechanism; seeds germinate at the right time to survive and thrive! You may ask, then, why not just sow the seeds outdoors in the garden? In theory it sounds good, but in reality "the wild" is not the best seed bed. From hungry birds and rodents, to wind and drenching rains, success is hit or miss. Safely inside the milk jug, but at the same time outside in the elements to freeze and thaw, freeze and thaw, tricky seeds are coaxed into germinating. Success at your fingertips!

My method of combating tricky ger-

I IN THE GARDEN


Roberta McQuaid

minators has always been the refrigerator. By putting seeds in moist soil in a small plastic bag and chilling them for a month or so at 40 degrees, I am usually successful at providing an abbreviated "winter," satisfying germination requirements that break dormancy. Recently, I watched a video from a wildflower specialist in Canada, who abbreviated "winter" a bit further. She simply places

seeds in the fridge for 24 hours, then the freezer for 24 hours. Five times back and forth and she swears dormancy is broken.

After the period of stratification has passed, seeds are handled as normal, sown on the surface of a moist soilless mix with the provision of bottom heat and supplemental light. But what if I didn't have the props, or even enough window sills to limp along seedlings inside? Here is where I think sowing in milk jugs could be of benefit, and it goes beyond "winter" or even seeds that need specialized treatments to germinate.

More recent blogs speak of starting everything from cold-hardy annuals to heat-loving vegetables inside milk jugs, and while I don't think the method is fool-proof, or meant for the lazy gardener, I do think there is good reason to give it a try. Gather some supplies: duct tape, empty gallon jugs, decent seed starting soil, a paint pen and a selection of seeds. Perennial herbs and flowers can be sown right away and next week the how-to portion will explain exactly how to do it.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Boston Children's Hospital, Baystate form collaboration

BOSTON – Boston Children's Hospital and Baystate Health have formed a collaboration that will improve patient access to highly specialized pediatric care and strengthen the coordination of care between Boston Children's and Baystate Children's Hospital in Springfield.

The collaboration will provide patients throughout western Massachusetts with improved access to pediatric specialty care at Baystate Children's Hospital, and it will streamline care planning among providers at Boston Children's and Baystate Children's. The collaboration anticipates that the two hospitals will jointly develop pathways to ensure that children and adolescents get the right care in the right setting. In some instances,

Boston Children's clinicians will be available to provide care at Baystate Children's.

"As the leading children's hospital in western Massachusetts, Baystate Children's has long partnered with the community to advance the health and well-being of all children from prevention to critical care. Today we are delighted to build upon our exceptional care for families through a collaboration with the much-respected Boston Children's Hospital, which will provide additional clinical expertise when needed for our young patients," said Dr. Mark A. Keroack, President and CEO of Baystate Health.

Dr. Charlotte Boney, Chair of the

Department of Pediatrics at Baystate Children's Hospital added: "This collaboration acknowledges and strengthens the close working relationship with Boston Children's Hospital that we have enjoyed for many years. This collaboration will facilitate our continued ability to keep specialty care local so that children and families have access to a broad range of high-quality, affordable services right here in western Massachusetts. We look forward to exploring other opportunities that will strengthen our collaboration to serve our mutual missions of patient care, medical education and community service."

"At Boston Children's, we are committed to providing comprehensive pediatric care -- close to home whenever possi-

ble -- to patients and families throughout Massachusetts," said Sandra L. Fenwick, CEO of Boston Children's Hospital. "This collaboration will strengthen the ability of two great institutions to improve access to the highest quality care for the patients and families we look forward to serving together."

The collaboration builds on the strong working relationship that currently exists between the two hospitals. The two hospitals already work collaboratively in cardiology, neurology and dermatology, and by enhancing medical education, remote consults, information technology and other initiatives, the two institutions will be better able to coordinate care for their patients.

COVID • from page 1

in and out, but it was before the mask mandate."

She said in hindsight, she had two underlying factors she wasn't aware of — her weight and being a type A blood type.

"I was unaware of them at the time," she said. "If you're overweight or obese, that's a comorbidity."

Collette and her family experienced having the virus themselves and are still facing challenges due to Collette's COVID-19 long-haulers. "COVID long haulers" is what people have deemed a condition when someone experiences symptoms after having COVID-19.

Collette said, at first, her symptoms were very mild. There were no testing at the time Collette contracted COVID-19, but she was able to get one.

"They were very mild. It started with some intense fatigue. A very slight cough, it was hard to tell if it was allergies, is this being run down, what is this?" said Collette. "It was really mild and continued to Friday, the cough continued, but still fatigued."

She said it continued into the weekend, until Sunday evening when she got a fever.

"It was 103.5 when I first took it and as

soon as I had the fever, the headache also hit," she said. "Like the first sinus headache you've ever had."

Then, she got a cough, GI symptoms, shortness of breath and others.

"It got gradually worse until Thursday, April 2," she said. "My fever broke, and I started to feel 'human.' I was able to sit up and not feel like I was going to pass out, I was able to shower."

Overnight into Friday, she got what was classified as COVID pneumonia.

"I could tell because when I was breathing it sounded like Rice Krispie Treats," she said.

All the while, Collette was in touch with primary care physician who had her come in for a chest x-ray, revealing her diagnoses.

On April 6, she started antibiotics and a nebulizer treatment and by April 10, she was feeling better again.

Although she isolated on April 2, her son, who was 11 months old, began displaying symptoms.

"The doctors didn't really have anything to say, it was so early, basically we did Tylenol," she said. "He seemed to be getting better and he was turning a corner."

Around the same time, her husband also got sick, with symptoms lasting three to four days. Her daughter, who is

3, "never missed a beat."

Her son never got tested, but a month after his symptoms, he had a seizure in May. After a trip to the hospital, he has been doing well since.

Over the next month Collette said she recovered slowly, functioning for two to three hours a day and sleeping during the rest.

"My husband and daughter recovered like nothing happened, my son and I did not," Collette said. "He went through the gambit with me, until the seizure hit. Once he came out of the children's hospital, he mellowed."

However, Collette said her symptoms continued. She had scarring on her lungs and inflammation on her heart that wasn't clearing up. In June, she said she had a blood clot in her left calf.

"I have two very young children, so it was a very hard summer," Collette said.

There were cyclical symptoms from a fever, fatigue, shortness of breath and others.

In October, she was diagnosed with slight myocarditis, or slight inflammation of the heart, after an echocardiogram.

"Now we are looking at POTS or Postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome and SVT or Supraventricular tachycardia, so basically like a viral induced tachycardia. If I am doing the most basic task, my

heart rate will accelerate significantly," Collette said.

She works as an English as a second Language Learner teacher in the Belchertown Public Schools.

"I am very fortunate to work in a district that has been so accommodating, when I submitted my list of issues with my health, they allowed me to teach remotely," she said.

Being remote has been "a Godsend" for her, but her goal is to go back to in school teaching.

"The end goal is to go back full time in the future. It is a huge concern, obviously. How do I go back to work when I have this? I don't know if I can walk from one side of the school to the other," Collette said. "It weighs on my mind, is it a forever thing? Is it a forever disability? Or can I push through it?"

She said it's a big concern for her family as well, but Collette has remained optimistic.

"I have wonderful students who come onto my meets every day...I have two beautiful children, a wonderful husband. If you focus on the bad, you'll stay stuck in the bad," Collette said. "I don't have time for that, or the mental capacity."

To see the complete interview, go to Belchertown Community Television's website at <https://belchertown.vids.io/>.



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AMHERST

Amherst Historical Society hosts Dickinson lecture

AMHERST – On Sunday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m., the Amherst History Society will hold its annual meeting. A brief business meeting will be followed by a lecture from Dr. Claire Nashar; Nashar will connect the poetry of Emily Dickinson with the history and culture of Amherst in her lecture, “The Pedigree of Honey”: Class, Colony, and Politics in Amherst’s “Bee Hive” and Emily Dickinson’s Bee Poems.

Here is the address of the Zoom link for the meeting: <https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/84371278321>.

This talk will provide a local and national context for understanding how Emily Dickinson used, rejected, or ignored the contemporary symbolic associations of bees, which during her lifetime were not only extremely popular metaphors in American social and political discourse at

large, but also prominent in the social language and geography of Amherst. Drawing on newspaper coverage of the Amherst “Bee Hive” (1850s-1864), a tenement building home to low-income Irish and Black families that stood a few houses down from Dickinson’s childhood home, as well other local news stories and advertisements, the lecture establishes the function of bee rhetoric in local and national

explorations of class, gender and race.

Claire Nashar recently earned her Ph.D. in English from the State University of New York, Buffalo, supported by a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship. She has published a book of poems, *Lake* (2016), and has served as curator of the online Australian Poetry Library and as Assistant Project Manager for the Marianne Moore Digital Archive.

Amazing architectural sculpture from 10 American colleges and universities

AMHERST - Intrigued by gargoyles in architecture? Join the Jones Library for the Grotesque 10: Amazing Architectural Sculpture from 10 American Colleges and Universities, an event to be hosted by the Jones Library via Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m.

Armed with only a camera, a sense of humor and a host of frequent flyer miles, Mathew Duman embarked on a “grotesque safari,” traveling to 10 universities around the country to photograph the unique grotesques and gargoyles roosting on their academic buildings. Mathew found that this type of sculpture makes its home within a style of architecture known as

Collegiate Gothic which was popular in the 19th and early 20th centuries. He has collected his findings in his book called The Grotesque 10: Amazing Architectural Sculpture from Ten American Colleges and Universities and presents a selection in this illustrated lecture, giving you a taste of the variety of ornament, history and humor these campuses have to offer.

The Grotesque 10 schools we will visit are Yale University, Trinity College (Hartford, CT), Bryn Mawr College, the City College of New York, Duke University, Northwestern University, Princeton University, the University of Chicago, the University of Pennsylvania,

and Washington University in St. Louis.

To attend this event, please register by sending an email to programs@joneslibrary.org. You must register with your email address in order to receive the link to participate in this Zoom event. The link will be sent to you by email approximately one day before the event. You will need a device with audio and/or video and an internet connection to join via Zoom.

Duman is a photographer, author, and graphic designer who grew up in Bethany, Connecticut. He attended the gargoyle-free campus of Central Connecticut State University, but while studying abroad, he developed a fascination with the grotesque

sculptures of the cathedrals of Britain. In addition to England, Matt has made photographic trips to Italy, Africa, Australia & New Zealand. As a personal project, he began exploring the variety of sculpture found on the buildings of Yale University and published a book called An Education in the Grotesque, containing his findings at Yale. He has now turned his sights on the sculpture at other campuses around the US.

For more information, please visit <https://www.joneslibrary.org/> or contact Janet Ryan at ryanj@joneslibrary.org.

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GOLF • from page 1

project.

"Community interest in disc golf was first brought to the attention of the Recreation Department in Sept. of 2016. The Recreation Department, along with Pure Flight submitted a grant application to the Community Preservation Committee in Dec. of 2017 to partly fund the construction of the course, which was approved at the 2018 meeting," she said. "In Jan. of 2019 the Conservation commission wouldn't approve the Piper Farm location due to large amount of wetlands."

Following the disbanding of Pure Flight, bids went out for a new designer. The new designer selected was Explore Disc Golf.

"In June 2020, at the annual article 26 voted to appropriate and transfer \$14,000 from the CPC fund to create an 18-hole course off Route 9 at the Constantino Recreation Facility area with said funds under direction of the Recreation Department," Kwiatkowski said. "The vote was a majority yes. A vote to appropriate and transfer funds is the only vote needed for this project. The disc golf is on town property, which doesn't require a vote and we will not be taking a vote on this."

Giggy will be working with the Conservation Department to keep within the bounds of the project.

Once complete, the Recreation Department will submit the project design to the Conservation Commission for approval. At that point, the town will send letter of intent to abutters and anyone within 100 feet of property.

She said the disc golf project was "one of the least invasion recreational projects considered for this property."

There will be three ADA compliant holes, which will be behind the soccer pitch in the flattest area, according to Giggy.

"In terms of reality of how you get there, there will need to be a foot-bridge that needs to be built across the small tributary stream that is behind the soccer pitch," Giggy said. "The flattest part of the site... but everything is less than 5%... to be true ADA it needs to be less than 8.33%. In terms of how you make that happen you can put some gravel that is stroller friendly and wheelchair accessible."

There will be one entrance and exit located at the Constantino Recreation Facility where there will be a port-o-potty and trash cans, which will be emptied weekly. As a Recreation Department-managed proper-

ty, department staff will walk course on a regular basis to address any issues. Disc golf programs run by the Recreation Department will offset expenses generated by the course.

Recreation Commission member Steve Corbin added that there is a non-profit being established to "allow the course to be maintained with no burden to taxpayers."

People in attendance at the virtual meeting had mixed reviews of the project.

Belchertown resident Karl Krawczyk said he's not against disc golf but requested the size of the course be reduced to allow for a 500-foot buffer or move the course to a different site.

"This is way too big of a course we don't need a competition course," he said.

Stacia Ray said that she had concerns about course as well.

"We like to invite people on the property, we always welcome people to use the trails to hunt, to do whatever," she said. "Most people are very respectful and we don't have an issue with that. But when you can get 72 people on this course within an hour, playing this game. That's a lot of people back there and I have a lot of reservation about the upkeep that the town is going to do on this."

She mentioned that she has picked up trash left around the soccer fields.

Belchertown resident Peter Charron, previous owner of Pure Flight Disc Golf, said he wanted to provide more information.

"It gets people out in nature and introduces a whole new generation to being outside in nature which I find to be wonderful thing with disc golf. It creates the next generation for environmental stewards. Like some of the abutters brought up, it's important to take care of the property," he said. "Getting people outside and introduced to nature is the number one way we're able to take care of our natural landscape."

Jason Johnson expressed similar support, saying that he helped to codesign and build the disc golf course in Northampton.

"It's been a remarkable asset to the community," he said. "It gives people a chance to get out and exercise and gets the kids out from behind their phones and computers. It's been an excellent respite from COVID-19...I think that everything that's going on here is the way it's supposed to work."

He encouraged the discussions between the town, neighbors and abutters was healthy and necessary.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Quabbin Valley disc golf course project was presented to the Belchertown Recreation Commission last week. The group took questions and comment from residents about the course.



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USDA INSP. FROZEN ROASTER CHICKEN **69¢** lb

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EDUCATION

GFDC presents zoom owl program

Friends of Great Falls Discovery Center present "Owls of New England" by Peter Christoph Peter. Christoph delivers stunning photographs of his favorite owls combined with stories, which entertain, educate and inspire. Participants will learn the secrets he uses to find and photograph owls in their natural habitat. Christoph is a well-known wildlife advocate, naturalist and award-winning wildlife photographer,

who seeks to raise awareness of the need to conserve bird habitat. The virtual presentation via Zoom will be Thursday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. People may email friendsofgfdc@gmail.com for link to join. More information, they may call 413-863-3221 or visit greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org. The presentation is free and all are welcome. This program is supported by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local

Students honored with selection to leadership program

BOSTON - Project 351, a Massachusetts nonprofit organization that fosters leadership and unity through service, announced the 102 high school leaders selected to serve on the 2021 Alumni Leadership Council. Aimed at furthering leadership development and transformative impact through service, the ALC is composed of high school students who are Alumni of Project 351.

Ariana Klekotka of Granby Junior/Senior High School and Sophie Poissant of Belchertown High School were selected.

Over a year's term, members gain the knowledge, skill, and agency to progress positive social change. The 2021 ALC formally kicked-off with a virtual leadership summit this past weekend.

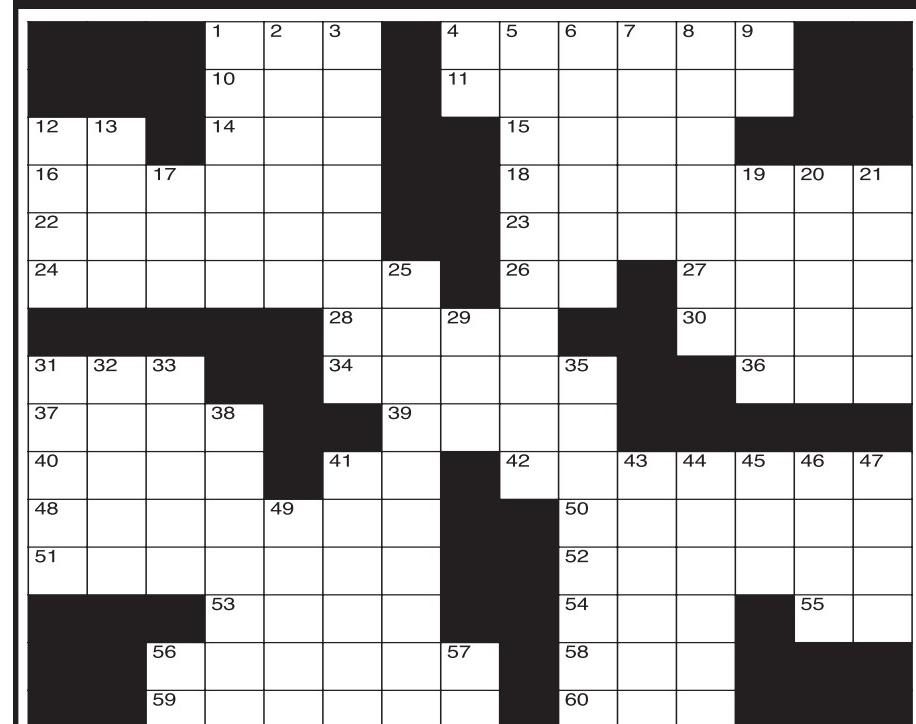
The ALC's commitment to lead is motivated by their previous participation in Project 351. Founded in 2011, Project 351 each year engages eighth graders, known as Ambassadors, who represent each of the Commonwealth's 351 cities and towns for a year of service and civic engagement. Since its founding, 3,753 eighth graders have participated. This year, Project 351 Ambassadors and Alumni will unite to surpass the significant milestone of having

positively impacted one million people in Massachusetts through service.

"The ALC represents the best of Project 351's values-in-action," said Carolyn Casey, Project 351 Founder and Executive Director. "Members are selected for their exemplary leadership and skill for mobilizing communities for positive change. With compassion and purpose, the ALC powers our youth-led movement for positive social change."

A virtual summit, held at the end of January, featured leadership skill development; trainings on mentorship and diversity, equity, and inclusion; and the Playbook Initiative, the Boston Celtics' anti-bias, anti-discrimination program. For the third year, Project 351 and the Boston Celtics will engage middle school students to build the knowledge and skill to lead as bridge builders and upstanders.

On March 7, the ALC will join Governor Charlie Baker for a virtual Launch Day celebration of the 2021 Ambassador Class. The annual Launch was delayed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and kicks-off the eleventh year of Project 351's youth-led movement for positive social change.



CLUES ACROSS

- Big tech firm
- Picked
- Type of whale
- A woman of refinement
- New England state
- Common gibbon
- Tall coniferous tree
- State capital
- Making a liquid muddy
- Vinegary Peninsula
- Thee
- Atomic #55
- Used in units of measurement
- Welsh female name
- Arab ruler title
- One's mother

CLUES DOWN

- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Assn. of oil-producing countries
- Holy fire
- Emit coherent radiation
- Atomic #81
- Orthodox Jewish college
- Ran after
- Begin again
- Named
- Barbary sheep
- Unwell
- Postscript
- Drivers
- One point east (clockwise) of due north
- Prim
- A facility

equipped for sports or physical training

- Products
- Nostril
- Surprise Icelandic politician
- Small islands
- Conclusive acts
- Inform on
- Grinding tooth events
- Keep up
- One hundredth of a meter
- Tablelands
- Raising
- Beloved baseball announcer
- Repulsive
- Hums
- Northern European languages
- Mountain in Antarctica
- Neighborhood in Manhattan
- Distinctive practice
- Northeast
- Chew the fat
- Vice president
- Innovative industry
- Contributes to
- Small bones
- Oil company
- Land to put down to grass
- Empire State

School Lunch Menu

FEBRUARY 22 – FEBRUARY 26

Note: Tuesday through Thursday are small meal kit items

Monday

Breakfast: pop tart, cheese stick and fruit.
Lunch: loaded beef nachos and fiesta black bean salad.

Tuesday

(Small Meal Kits come home)
Breakfast: Bagel with cream cheese and 100% fruit juice.
Lunch: turkey sandwich, chips and mixed vegetables.

Wednesday

Curbside Meal Kit Pickup at BHS
11 a.m. from 1 p.m.
Remote learning day, no in school meals.

Thursday

Breakfast: banana bread and 100% fruit juice.

Lunch: French toast sticks with sausage, yogurt and sweet potato fries.

Friday

Small meal kits come home and orders due today for week four
Breakfast: apple frudel and fruit.
Lunch: Oriole chicken bowl (chicken with mashed potatoes, corn and gravy) and a dinner roll.

Note

Pre-k and Kindergarten will offer a daily in-school alternative choice: Muffin, yogurt, vegetable, fruit, and milk

Grades 1 though 6 will offer a daily in-school alternate choice: Sunbutter and Jelly sandwich, vegetable, fruit and milk

Grades 7 to 12 will offer daily in-school alternative choices: pizza station, deli bar and pre-made salads

RAIL • from page 2

was embracing their roots.

"He was very committed to his hometown," Lesser said.

Lesser, who strengthened his activist bones in high school fighting to reverse teacher layoffs, admired how Buttigieg looked for ways to leverage education and experience to help lift their communities.

"I was really drawn to that because that was really the story I identified with, so we became friendly and we kept in touch," Lesser said. "He graduated, of course, and I was still in school, and whenever he was back in Cambridge or back on campus, we would try to meet up and we kept in touch."

When Buttigieg lived in Chicago, Obama's home base, Lesser and Buttigieg would spend time whenever the campaign made a weekly stop in the Windy City so then-candidate Obama could spend a weekend with his family.

"About once a week, we would end up back in Chicago, and Pete and I fell into a bit of a routine of hanging out on Saturdays and on Sundays, and then I went to work at the White House, and I remember him talking to me about the house he was preparing to buy in South Bend, the work he was doing there," Lesser said. "I remember he called me one day and said that he was going to be running for state treasurer of Indiana and I thought that was a great idea."

"Unfortunately, that campaign didn't go as planned," he said. "But I think he did learn a lot. And he really got to be well-known in the state, but it was a really hard time. This was the 2010 election cycle, one of the hardest years for Democrats. Indiana in particular was a very interesting state at that time because it was really one of the ground zeroes of the recession. The Kokomo (Ind.) auto plant, for example, had laid off significant numbers of people. You had a significant auto industry in Indiana that was very hard hit by the recession."

Buttigieg's opponent in that race for treasurer, Richard Mourdock, went on to oppose the Obama administration's bailout of the auto industry during the recession.

"I mean, he was actually suing to block the Obama auto rescue at the time and really hurting his own state, which had tens of thousands of jobs tied up in the auto industry," Lesser said. "And (Buttigieg) really helped elevate that issue and bring that to the forefront."

Not long after that, Buttigieg made a life-changing decision.

"He was approached by community leaders in his hometown in South Bend and I remember him calling me and saying, 'you know, I'm thinking about running for mayor' and I said 'cool – that

sounds great.' And of course, he won."

While Buttigieg was settling in as mayor of that well-known college town, Lesser paid a visit and the two took in Lesser's first Notre Dame football game.

"It was an out-of-body experience," Lesser laughed, recalling the passion of the Fighting Irish faithful.

"It was pretty incredible. It was very cool and I saw firsthand how much he was, frankly, just beloved in his community."

Lives intersecting again

Before the game, Lesser, staying at Buttigieg's place, came downstairs while Buttigieg was dealing with – wait for it – a transportation issue.

"He was on the phone with his DPW about issues that had happened overnight," Lesser said. "It was like first thing in the morning, he was on the line with this DPW head and now he's dealing with a lot of the same issues – just on a bigger scale."

Speaking of, Lesser can't guarantee that Buttigieg can help move the needle on the East-West Rail project, which is now largely in the hands of MassDOT, including a second look at what the plan's supporters, including Lesser, Rep. Jake Oliveira, Sen. Anne Gobi, and Rep. Todd Smola, say is a gross underestimate of projected ridership. But federal advocacy and funding is essential. Having an influential friend who also happens to be a fan of public transportation and infrastructure renewal can't hurt.

"We'll certainly be talking to him," Lesser said.

"Now we have a federal government that's going to be approaching rail and is going to be approaching mass transit from the standpoint of 'how can we help' rather than a standpoint of 'how do we stop it.' And frankly, that's why I think it's even more urgent that we have our state government do its part, which means that they need a ridership analysis that's accurate," he said.

"The Baker administration needs to make rail a bigger priority and they've got to do this improved demand analysis and they need to do a full environmental analysis of what the benefits would be," Lesser said. "So, I don't want to let the state off the hook because the Baker administration needs to do its part to really prioritize this project and get those ridership estimates where they need to be."

"That being said, we have really a united front now federally that we haven't had in a very long time. President Biden, all the way through his vice president, through his secretary of transportation, are now going to be looking at a project like this," he said. "And Pete knows about this project because I've talked to him about it over the years. So he's not going to be looking at it completely new."

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE LOGS

Belchertown Police

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Feb. 3 through Feb. 9. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the 298 calls police responded to, there were eleven incidents, nine accidents, four arrest/summons and six citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Thursday, Feb. 4

1:47 p.m. – A 49-year-old Ludlow woman was issued summons for not having a license in their possession, unlicensed operation and no inspection sticker.

An officer was monitoring traffic in the center of town when they saw a vehicle travelling north on South Main St. The officer performed a random license plate check which advised their license expired in Sept. of 2020 and their inspection sticker expired in March of 2019. The operator was identified as its registered owner. They said they knew their license was expired and was summons to court once already. The person went to a registry of motor vehicles and didn't have the necessary documents. The person later contacted relative for a ride. The vehicle was towed and was summons to court.

Friday, Feb. 5

10:10 a.m. – A 55 year old Belchertown woman was issued a summons for leaving the scene of property damage in an accident and filing a false crime report. An officer was called to the scene of an accident where it was alleged a black pickup truck hit a vehicle by Park St and kept going. The caller's vehicle showed damage, and the officer advised the story didn't match with the damage to the vehicle. The called said they waited to report the accident because they didn't have their cell phone with them to call. There was damage to the passenger's side, but according to the caller's story, the vehicle would have been hit on the driver's side. There was debris around a telephone pole on the same street the resident lived on and they denied hitting the pole. After several minutes of trying to get the real story, a relative in the house said they hit a pole. The person was issued a summons and an immediate threat report was filed.

Tuesday, Feb. 9

8:56 p.m. – Theresa Corbin, 43, of 263 Center St. Apt. 1, Ludlow, was arrested on charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, intimidate a witness, vandalizing property and assault and battery.

Belchertown fire and paramedics and officers responded to a North Washington St. residence for a report of woman who reported she was assaulted and hung up before dispatch could get more information. When officers responded on scene, a woman was banging on side of the door screaming. The person was identified and ignored the officers' commands. The officers approached the person, who was handcuffed and attempted to resist arrest. The officers noticed there was blood on their clothing. Then the victim came out of the house crying and asking for help. They had blood on their face and clothing. The suspect was uncooperative and refused to get into cruiser. The victim was transported to the hospital. The victim reported they tried to make a phone call, but the suspect damaged the phone and storm door of the house. The suspect was booked and continued to be uncooperative and they were unable to be finger printed. Bail was set at \$1,000 and they were transported to Hampshire county house of correction.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 3

1:01 p.m. – Officers took a report from a resident who received an unemployment packet for a deceased resident. The resident was advised to file a fraudulent account and have their bank account checked.

2:49 p.m. – An officer took a report from a victim of a computer scam. They were on their computer when a red pop-up appeared on their screen with a phone number to fix their computer. The person called the number and the scammer was allowed access to the computer. They were advised to go to their bank and change the bank accounts and computer information.

Thursday, Feb. 4
6:21 p.m. – Officers were dispatched to the area of Franklin St. for a one vehicle accident involving a deer that was injured but still alive. The deer had to be euthanized. The person didn't have any injuries and there were no tows.

Friday, Feb. 5
9:29 p.m. – Officers assist with exchange of students involved in custody issue.

Saturday, Feb. 6
10:03 a.m. – An officer assisted Belchertown animal control with euthanizing an injured raccoon.

Sunday, Feb. 7
10:09 p.m. – Officers responded to an accident on North Washington St. A vehicle was travelling north on North Washington St. swerved to avoid another car and struck a utility pole. The vehicle was drivable from the scene but had damage to the front right side. The operator didn't have any injuries.

3:25 p.m. – Officers responded to an accident on North Main St. An operator was travelling north on Main St when the operator lost control on the snow-covered roadway. A second vehicle travelling behind the first went around the vehicle to avoid hitting it. The first vehicle struck a snowbank and a sign. Then the second vehicle struck the right rear of the first. No injuries were reported. No tows were indicated.

3:34 p.m. – Officers responded to an accident on North Washington St. A vehicle heading south on North Washington, lost traction and crashed into a blinking crosswalk sign. There was minor damage to left front of the vehicle. The vehicle was towed privately.

9:59 p.m. – An officer was dispatched to a business for a report of a stolen snow blower. A contractor was removing snow from a lot and went to a different location. While doing that, someone grabbed a snowblower. Video footage was requested from the business.

Monday, Feb. 8
9:20 a.m. – Officers took a report of unemployment fraud.
10:36 a.m. – Officers responded to Daniel Shays Highway for a two vehicle accident. One vehicle was parked on the south bound side of the road. The vehicle was struck from behind by another. The second vehicle swerved, causing the accident. There were fence materials in the bed of the truck and front collided with parked vehicle's driver's side rear. No one was injured and both vehicles were drivable. The Belchertown DPW was contacted to pick up broken glass and fence materials from the scene.

Tuesday, Feb. 9
10:03 p.m. – An officer spoke with person about concerning text messages they received.

12 p.m. – Officers responded to a one vehicle accident on Chauncey Walker Rd. A vehicle struck a guardrail on Chauncey Walker Rd at Springfield Rd. Belchertown Fire was contacted because the vehicle leaked fluids and there was airbag deployment. Ludlow Fire ambulance responded on scene. The vehicle was towed from the scene. One person was transported to the hospital and one was given a ride.

1:14 p.m. – Officers responded to a single vehicle accident on Springfield Rd. after a car struck a pole. No injuries were reported. The involved party was given a courtesy transport to their residence.

7:37 p.m. – Officers responded to a single vehicle accident on West St. The vehicle was travelling south on West St, and failed to navigate a curve, sliding straight into a rock on at a residence. No injuries were indicated.

Granby Police

Editor's Note: There were no logs from Granby this week.



OBITUARY

DEATH NOTICE

Sharyn A. Page (Cook)

Died: Feb. 7, 2021

Visitation Feb. 20 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Beers & Story Belchertown



Sharyn A. Page

WEST SPRINGFIELD -

Sharyn A. (Cook) Page, 75, passed away Feb. 7, 2021 after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Born in Springfield on Dec. 10, 1945, she was the daughter of Harold P. and Ida (Lamoureux) Cook. Sharyn grew up in Belchertown but settled her adult years in West Springfield. She worked early as a computer programmer and the remainder of her career in tax preparation services. Sharyn was an avid animal lover and enjoyed traveling, and spending time with her family. She volunteered her time at the local Senior Center and at the voting polls. Sharyn will be missed by her two sons, Darryl Page and his wife Andrea of Feeding Hills, and Brian Page of West Springfield. She is also survived by her former husband, Robert J. Page and many cousins and dear friends. In 2015, Sharyn was predeceased by her brother, Richard H. Cook. Visitation will be held on Saturday, Feb. 20 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home with burial to follow in the spring at Mt Hope Cemetery. For those over 70 or immunocompromised, please attend from 3 to 3:30 p.m. Donations may be made in her memory to the Alzheimer's Association. For details, please visit www.beersandstory.com

The Sentinel

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

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COMMUNITY

Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice invites applications for mini grants

REGION – The Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice is inviting applications for the 10th round of mini grants. For more than forty years, Carlos Vega fought for social justice in the greater Holyoke area. In 2010, a small group of family and friends started the Fund to support the kind of social justice initiatives that were important to Carlos.

The Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice awards small grants, typically ranging from \$250 to \$1,000, to individuals and non-profit groups for a specific, one-time program or project that focuses on the fundamental primary causes of injustice, fosters change, and promotes self-help and empowerment. The purpose of the grants is to support the efforts of those who are addressing issues

of poverty and oppression, and involve people who are socially and economically marginalized in Hampden County.

Previous mini grants have supported a variety of organizations including: Clinical and Support Options, Enchanted Circle Theater, Girls Inc. of the Valley and Plunge Arts, First Shift Productions, Granby Public Schools, The Gray House, Holyoke Public Schools, Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative, Holyoke Senior Center and Western Mass Elder Care, Home City Development, OneHolyoke CDC, The Performance Project, Treehouse, Seeds of a Father and Wistariahurst Museum.

The Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice is administered through the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts and is overseen by an advisory committee.

Since 2012, the Fund has awarded \$59,402 to forty-one organizations in the greater Holyoke area.

The deadline for applications is March 15. The group expects to award grant funding on May 14, 2021. Grantees are expected to participate in the awards ceremony. For further information and/or to obtain an application, please visit the Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice website at <http://www.carlosvegafund.org/> or contact Aaron Vega at carlosvegafund.413@gmail.com or 413-522-0268.

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FOOTBALL

Englert heads for Franklin Pierce

BY TIM PETERSON
Sports Correspondent

B E L C H E R T O W N — Several former members of the Belchertown varsity football team are listed on Division 3 college football rosters. They are Hunter Klingensmith (Bates College) Cal Daskam (Western New England University), Ryan French (Westfield State University), and John Flink (Westfield State University).

None of the former Orioles football players had the opportunity to play in any games last fall because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which canceled the Division 3 college football season.

Hunter Englert, a senior at Belchertown High School, will be continuing his football career at Franklin Pierce University next fall. He becomes the first Orioles player to play college football at the Division 2 level in more than 10 years.

"It's going to be a big step up for me, but I'm really looking forward to playing college football at Franklin Pierce," said Englert during a recent zoom interview. "Not very many Belchertown football players have played college football at the Division 2 level in the past. Football is such a fun sport and I've always dreamed about playing college football."

Two other school's on Englert's recruiting list were John Hopkins University, which is a Division 3 school located in Baltimore, Maryland, and UMass-Amherst.

"I almost decided to attend

UMass, but I think playing college football at the Division 2 level suited me a little bit better," Englert said. "The Franklin Pierce campus is also much smaller than UMass. I'm planning to study pre-med there."

Englert signed his official letter of intent to play football at Franklin Pierce, which is a private university located in Rindge, N.H., at the beginning of February.

The Ravens, who also didn't play any games last fall, moved to the Division 2 ranks from the Collegiate Sprint Football League in 2019. They finished with a 1-10 overall record that season.

Franklin Pierce is a member of the Northeast-10 football conference, along with AIC, Assumption College, Bentley College, Pace, Stonehill, Southern Connecticut University, Saint Anselm, and New Haven.

Franklin Pierce head coach Russell Gaskamp began recruiting Englert when he was a junior in high school.

"Hunter is an outstanding student and a super nice young man. When you add good people to your football family, it strengthens your program," Gaskamp said. "As a high school player, I think he has been a better defensive player but at the college level we project him as an offensive lineman."

Englert, who's 6'3, 275, is planning to be an offensive tackle in college. He has been a member of the Orioles football team, which is coached by Ed

See ENGLERT, page 13 •

BASKETBALL



Pioneers return to action



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

After a long layoff, the Pathfinder High School boys basketball team finally got a chance to take the court in the winter season. Last Friday night, the Pioneers defeated Hampden Charter School of Science 65-41. The Pioneers are scheduled for several games through the end of February before the sports season shifts to football. Above, Darren Wawro goes for a shot ahead of a block. Left top, Austin Lagimoniere shoots a layup. Left center, Jordan Talbot holds the ball before moving it around the arc. Left, bottom Nick Beaulieu attempts to shoot before being blocked.

RACING

Kurt Vigeant looks to make his Tri Track Open Modified Series mark in 2021

S E E K O N K — Kurt Vigeant will look to make his mark in the Tri Track Open Modified Series in 2021. The driver of the familiar white and orange No. 7 is set to compete in all of the races in the new season and hopes to continue

to make gains into the top 10 as part of one of the most competitive fields in Modified racing.

Vigeant, who has been involved in racing since the age of 12, broke into the sport with AMA Motocross and became the Grand

National Champion. He continued into the Pro 4 Modifieds, where he went to Victory Lane, then became a two-time champion at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park in their Modified division. All of this experience drove his

interest to move into the Tour-Type Modifieds, where he runs today, specifically with Tri Track. He's hoping to make gains on his previous efforts during the 2021 season.

"When I started in these types of Modifieds we ran a few races, then totaled the car and it took two years to fix it because we didn't have the funds," Vigeant said. "I enjoy the schedule that Tri Track has with the bullring tracks. I don't think anyone is content where they are running, until you are on the top."

Vigeant is no stranger to the series, competing at all of the tracks that Tri Track will visit during the 2021 season. Enjoying the bullrings makes Tri Track a perfect fit -- as the series makes the schedule based off the tracks that equal the playing field and put the capabilities of the driver into the forefront.

"I've had good success when it

comes to qualifying for the features," Vigeant said. "I think I've only missed two since I started running with Tri Track. But I'm lacking those finishes... I need some luck. It's tough to compete, as an underfunded team, on a series with a lot of talent. But we are fighting, and I couldn't do it without my sponsor and my team."

Vigeant carries the colors of Gary Rice Equipment and Service on the car, and has a variety of crew members that are regulars with him at the track. He is always looking for additional sponsors to help him get through the season, whether big or small. Crew members include Rob Anderson, Josh O'Connell, Joey Pole, Billy Bodreau (crew chief), Melissa O'Connell, Dennis West, Carroll Vescovi and others, when



Kurt Vigeant will be among hopefuls in Tri Track series this year.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

See RACING, page 13 •

SPORTS

MIAA hoping for successful Fall 2 season

FRANKLIN – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association MIAA COVID-19 Task Force representatives presented Fall II Season sport modifications and recommendations today for the 2020-2021 year to the MIAA Board of Directors.

This presentation culminated the MIAA governance process which included sport-specific sub-committee meetings where current Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs EEA and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary DESE guidelines were reviewed. Sport sub-committees created or updated sport specific modifications, presented them for approval to the full sport committee and then presented, for

approval, to the MIAA Sports Medicine Committee SMC. The MIAA Covid-19 Task force subsequently reviewed and approved the modifications.

MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine stated, "Today's actions by the MIAA's Board of Directors are the culmination of the work of our membership committed to establishing optimal standards of health and safety that will provide the restoration of Fall sports for 1000s of MIAA student-athletes."

The MIAA Board of Directors voted to approve sport-specific modifications for the Fall II Season. These modifications will continue to be reviewed as they relate to current regulations surrounding

COVID-19 and may be modified if necessary. Additional modifications or the decision to participate in MIAA-recognized Fall II sports will be determined by local school districts and/or their local Boards of Health. You may view the Task Force presentation HERE.

MIAA President Jeffrey Granatino said, "We made adjustments in the fall and had a success first season. We made additional modifications for the winter and our student-athletes have been actively engaged since December. Now we are hopeful that with the guidance from the Governor's office and of EEA, along with the work of our various committees, that we will be able to have a safe and successful Fall II

Season." You may view all MIAA sport modifications on the MIAA COVID-19 webpage.

The following sports have been approved by the MIAA for the Fall II Season: Cheerleading, Football, Indoor Track, and Unified Basketball. The following sports were approved for the Fall I Season, however, local districts may have decided to move them to the Fall II Season: Cross Country, Dance, Golf, Field Hockey, Soccer, Swim and Dive, and Volleyball.

The timeframe of the MIAA Fall II Season is February 22-April 25, 2021. There will be no MIAA sponsored post-season tournament for the Fall II Season.

Bay State Games partners with charter schools

WOBURN – Bay State Games is excited to announce new partnerships with the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization (MCSAO) and New England Preparatory School Athletic Conference (NEPSAC). Bay State Games has a long history with the Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors Association, and now with this new partnership with the MCSAO and NEPSAC, BSG is hoping to reach all Massachusetts high school students.

Both the MCSAO and NEPSAC organize athletic championships for their respective leagues and reach thousands of student-athletes every year. Bay State Games hopes this

partnership will help share athletic and educational opportunities to every high school student-athlete in Massachusetts.

"The MCSAO is very excited to partner with an organization like the Bay State Games. Working together we are hopeful to provide more opportunities for student-athletes to compete in different high-level athletic tournaments and venues," says Drew Betts, Co-Executive Director of the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization. "In addition, we are pleased that this will be additional avenues for student athletes within the MCSAO to work with the Bay State Games to promote teamwork and sportsmanship in

support of the Games mission."

Of the new partnership, NEPSAC President George Tahan said, "We at NEPSAC are thrilled to be able to partner with the Bay State Games and help afford NEPSAC student-athletes with additional opportunities to participate in a number of sports and event offerings. NEPSAC's principle purpose aligns seamlessly with the Bay State Games mission of 'promoting personal development, education, physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship' and we at NEPSAC look forward to long and rewarding relationship."

Offering opportunities to compete in Bay

State Summer and Winter Games events, Future Leaders Scholarship Program, High School Ambassador Program, and Sportsmanship Program as well as coaching opportunities for high school coaches is the goal of this partnership.

"Ensuring that all high school student-athletes in Massachusetts are aware of and have access to all Bay State Games programs is an important goal of our organization," said Executive Director, Kevin Cummings. "These collaborations with the NEPSAC and MCSAO will help us achieve this goal and highlight the outstanding athletes, coaches, and administrators from both organizations.

Pioneers to host Pelham clinic

LUDLOW – Western United Pioneers FC is excited to offer a soccer clinic in Pelham, MA for players in the Massachusetts North Region. The clinic provides off-season training and skill development by WUP FC coaches. The second sessions available.

This program is offered to boys and girls born in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The four-week program includes one practice per week for a total of \$65 per session. Sessions will

consist of a max of 15 players per field (COVID regulation for the players' safety).

SESSION 2: MONDAYS 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, and 3/15

- Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.

- Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

The sessions will be held at Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

Little League registration is open

BELCHERTOWN – Registration is open online now through Feb. 21 for Belchertown Little League's spring baseball season at <https://tshq.bluesombrero.com/belchertownll>. All boys and girls between the ages 8 – 16 (as of Aug. 31, 2021), who reside in either Belchertown or Granby, are eligible to register for the season, which begins in late March and

concludes in June. Cost is \$125 for the Minors/Majors divisions (ages 8 - 12) and \$150 for Intermediate/Seniors travel divisions (ages 11 – 16). Our Majors and Minors teams play on the exclusive "Mini-Fenway". Managers and assistant coaches can also register at the same time. For questions, contact btownlittleleague2013@gmail.com.

ENGLERT • from page 12

Wyzik, since he was a freshman.

"Coach Gaskamp said he's bringing in a really special group of players this year," Englert said. "They're looking to build the offensive and defensive lines. I feel like I can make a difference on their team."

One of Englert's other hobbies is fishing.

"The school is on Pearly Lake and the football team always have fishing derbies," Englert said. "Coach Gaskamp told me that he also goes fishing on the lake. Fishing is one of my favorite things to do besides playing football."

Before Englert puts on the Franklin Pierce football uniform for the first-time next September, he'll be wrapping up his high school football career during the newly formed Fall II season.

"It's going to be a really strange high school football season, but I'm definitely very excited about it," he said. "I've been working out at the gym at least four days a week preparing for the season. Playing

high school football has been one of the greatest things that has happened in my life. The players and coaches on my high school football team are like a big family to me."

The Belchertown football team has posted a 15-17 overall record during the past three seasons. The Orioles best season was in 2018 when they finished with a 7-4 record.

"We played well that season, but we could've done a little bit better," Englert said. "We just missed making the playoffs by one game."

The Orioles defeated rival Pathfinder on Thanksgiving morning all three years Englert has been a member of the team. They've outscored the Pioneers, 129-13, in those three games.

"Thanksgiving is always my favorite day of the football season," said Englert, who scored a touchdown on a two-point conversion play in the 2019 Thanksgiving Day game. "We won three times on that day and it was a lot of fun. A lot of the Pathfinder

football players are from Belchertown, so we do know each other very well."

As a freshman, Englert was the starting defensive tackle in the season opening game.

"I feel like I earned the starting position when I was a freshman and it wasn't given to me," Englert said. "I gave everything that I had during every practice and game."

Englert also saw some playing time on offense during his freshman season, which was a rebuilding year.

The following season, Englert played mostly offensive tackle.

"Switching sides was an adjustment for me to make, but I really didn't mind it," Englert said. "I excelled at both positions, but I learned a lot more by playing offense. You always need to know what's happening on that side of the ball."

Englert was a two-way starter as a junior.

"I never left the field during my junior season," he said. "I really enjoyed playing on both sides of the ball."

Wyzik has been the Orioles varsity foot-

ball coach since Englert joined the team.

"Coach Wyzik is the best football coach that I've ever had," Englert said. "He's probably the main reason why I'll be playing football at Franklin Pierce next year."

Hunter's older brother, Thomas, also played football at Belchertown High School. The brothers missed being teammates by one year.

"It would've been cool to have played on the same football team with my older brother," Hunter said. "He was also a very good high school football player."

Hunter's parents (Thomas & Jennifer) are his biggest fans.

"I'm very grateful for my parents support," Hunter said. "My dad is really looking forward to watching me play college football."

Hunter Englert, who's an honor roll student in the classroom, enjoys all of his science classes, especially biology and anatomy.

"I think science is a really interesting subject," Englert said. "I also like history."

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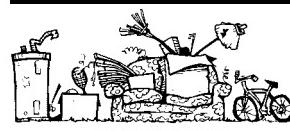
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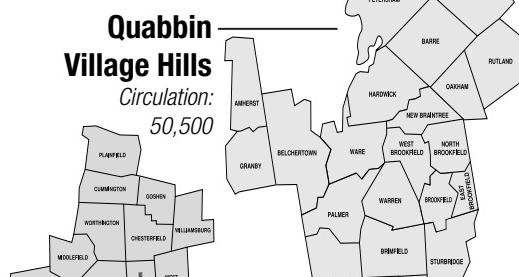
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REGION

WHOA! The fish will be biting on Feb. 20

RUSSELL – On Saturday, Feb. 20, Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures, or WHOA, will be featuring ice fishing as one of its feature events during their monthly opening of the Moses Scout Reservation. Ice on the reservation's 90-acre lake is forecast to be more than thick enough to support the largest of groups.

Heading up the Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures' ice fishing staff will be Craig Mannix and his Eagle Scout son, Jack. In addition to running the WHOA fishing program, Mannix also heads up the Western Massachusetts Council's Fishing Committee, which offers a variety of Scout fishing programs and events throughout the year. With more than 30 years of ice fishing experience, Mannix and the rest of his dedicated staff, will be available to show even the most novice fisherman how to catch the big ones under the ice. For those folks without the proper ice fishing equipment, Mannix and his crew will have plenty of "pop-ups" and other tools necessary available for use out on the frozen lake.

WHOA Director Mia Santos-Izyk said ice fishing is not the only activity event scheduled for Feb. 20. "Our guests can have fun making sparks fly in the blacksmith shop, featuring our top-grade instructor and Forged In Fire contestant, Dana Dupuis," she said. "If you've never experienced shaping red-hot metal into a useful item, this may be your chance to experience it!" Additionally, she reports snowshoeing and/or mountain biking (if biking, COVID-19 regulations require guests to bring their own helmet), orienteering, escape challenges and scavenger hunt bingo and more are on the day's agenda. If Mother Nature cooperates with the weather there is a possibility of trips out to the Top O' The Hill Maple "sugar shack" where visitors are rewarded for their efforts with the Top O' The Hills' hospitality and samples of their sweet, freshly boiled, maple syrup.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restric-



COURTESY PHOTO

Craig Mannix, left, and his son Jack Mannix, will be offering their ice-fishing expertise for those who attend the Feb. 20 all-day event that also includes a chance to blacksmith, mountain bike, take part in a scavenger hunt and possibly visit the sugar shack at Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures in Russell.

tions the registration cost for all these activities remains at \$10 per person, regardless of age. The Feb. 20 activities all commence at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

Regarding the COVID-19 regulations, Santos-Izyk advises all participants and WHOA staff that various modifications to the usual WHOA programs are still in place. Participants will be required to pre-register and pre-pay on-line at <https://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA202102>. No walk-ins or onsite registrations will be permitted. Additionally, registrations will be limited and participants may be asked to assemble into groups of 12 or fewer individuals. Typical social distancing will be

practiced with mandatory face coverings required at all times whether outside or in enclosed areas.

A full list of WHOA's OVID-19 modifications are found on their website at <https://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA>

Each month Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures presents activities taking advantage of the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation's 1,300-acre camp, located a few minutes from I-90, exit 3, at 310 Birch Hill Road.

The ever-growing list of activities are open to all. One does not need to be a Boy Scout to take part in a WHOA Saturday. Families, children, teens, adults, clubs, teams and others may par-

ticipate. All proceeds benefit various improvement projects and programs at the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation. More WHOA information may be found at <https://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA>. To pre-register online go online to <https://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA202102>.

"It's winter time in the hills of the Berkshires so guests are cautioned to be prepared and dress warmly by wearing layers of clothing," said Santos-Izyk. "Wear what will keep you warm, expect snow and/or ice-covered activity areas with terrain being rocky, muddy, snowy or even icy. Therefore, wearing sneakers will be hazardous. Sturdy footwear will help keep one's feet warmer and provide better support over uneven terrain."

For those who might get chilled, the camp's trading post will be open under a limited guest capacity.

Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures is offered by the Western Massachusetts Council, Boy Scouts of America to provide outdoor programs to families, youth groups, and businesses without being members of the BSA. The BSA has long used the outdoors as the classroom to develop young people to appreciate their environment and nature. WHOA! gives the community opportunities to "unplug" and enjoy outdoor adventure under the guidance of trained camp counselors using the 1300 acre Horace Moses Scout Reservation.

The Western Massachusetts Council, BSA is one of the largest youth-serving agencies in the four western counties of Massachusetts, serving more than 6,000 youth with educational programs that instill values, develop social and leadership skills, and promotes physical fitness and environmental awareness.

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The latest annual report is at [Annual-Report-2018](https://www.wmascouting.org/Annual-Report-2018) at [wmascouting.org](https://www.wmascouting.org).

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